



230859

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Monday, February 07, 2005
From: JJ Justice, On-Scene Coordinator

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Subject: US Steel Oil Spill, Initial/Final Polrep
US Steel 1/25/05 Oil Release
No. 1 Quality Drive, Ecorse, MI
Latitude: 42.2889
Longitude: -83.1032

POLREP No.: 1	Site #:
Reporting Period: 1/25/05 to 1/31/05	D.O. #:
Start Date: 1/25/2005	Response Authority: OPA
Mob Date:	Response Type: Emergency
Completion Date: 1/31/2005	NPL Status:
CERCLIS ID #:	Incident Category: Removal Action
RCRIS ID #:	Contract #
FPN#	Reimbursable Account #

Site Description

1. Site Location

Great Lakes Works United States Steel Corporation (US Steel) is located on Zug Island, Ecorse, Michigan. The area is predominantly surrounded by heavy industry and is located directly on the Detroit River.

1. Description of Threat

The spill involved the release of a light cooling oil. The oil posed a hazard to aquatic life and waterfowl. The oil was released to the Detroit River via a storm sewer Outfall (Outfall 003A).

Current Activities

On January 25, 2005, U.S. EPA received an NRC Report #748193 concerning an oil release to the Detroit River from the US Steel facility located on Zug Island in Ecorse, Michigan. Personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Detroit responded to the release to oversee US Steel's contractors' clean-up actions. Due to heavy ice, a water cannon was used to redirect ice flows from containment boom deployed around the source of the oil (Outfall 003A). Vacuum trucks were stationed at the outfall and the next two upstream manholes, on the storm sewer, to remove all collected free oil.

The source of the oil was identified as the No. 1 Power House turbo blower's kidney filter. A valve was found to be left open on the unit and between 250 and 400 gallons of oil was lost from the system to the storm sewer the discharges through Outfall 003A.

As part of the clean-up actions, the entire length of the storm sewer (approximately 420 feet) from the kidney filter to the outfall was jet vacuumed to remove any accumulated oil and debris from the sewer. The cleaned sewer was then inspected by video camera to ensure that no additional oil discharges were entering the sewer. Clean-up actions were completed on January 30, 2005.

Planned Removal Actions

All filter valves on blower units have been plugged to prevent any future accidental releases.

Next Steps

Containment boom will be maintained for approximately one week to ensure no residual oil is released to the Detroit River.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.